

Message Text

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UNCLAS DUBLIN 1310

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, EI

SUBJ: FONMIN SAYS FEAR IS SOURCE OF NI TROUBLES

1. FOLLOWING EXCERPT FROM FONMIN FITZGERALD'S UNGA SPEECH IS WORTH NOTE: "FEAR LIES AT THE ROOT OF THE (NI) SITUATION--THE FEARS OF THE MAJORITY IN THE AREA, THAT THEY MIGHT, AGAINST THEIR WILL BE FORCED TO BECOME A MINORITY WITHIN AN ALL-IRELAND REPUBLIC, AND THE FEARS OF THE MINORITY IN NI FOR THEIR FUTURE IN A SITUATION DOMINATED BY A FRIGHTENED MAJORITY....IF THESE FEARS, AGGRAVATED BY THE UNCERTAINTIES AND PHYSICAL DISTRESS OF THE PAST FOUR YEARS, COULD BE EASED, THE PROBLEM OF NI WOULD BE ON THE WAY TO SOLUTION. MY GOVT HAS A ROLE TO PLAY HERE. WE DO NOT SEEK TO IMPOSE, OR TO HAVE IMPOSED, ON THE PEOPLE OF NI ANY SOLUTION UNACCEPTABLE TO A MAJORITY THERE. WE KNOW THAT ANY ATTEMPT TO IMPOSE SUCH A SOLUTION COULD ONLY MULTIPLY THE BLOODSHED AND THE BITTERNESS. IT IS THE PEOPLE OF IRELAND WE SEEK TO UNITE: THE TERRITORY OF IRELAND IS NOTHING WITHOUT ITS PEOPLE. AND THIS UNITY OF THE PEOPLE OF IRELAND CAN BE SECURED ONLY IN PEACE AND RECONCILIATION WITH THE CONSENT OF A MAJORITY OF THE INHABITANTS OF NI."

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2. FITZGERALD THEN NOTED THAT THERE WAS BROAD AGREEMENT

BETWEEN GOI AND HMG ON PROPOSED SOLUTION, INCLUDING NEW POWER-SHARING EXECUTIVE, POLICE REFORM, AND COUNCIL OF IRELAND. COUNCIL OF IRELAND WOULD HAVE EQUAL REPRESENTATION AT EXECUTIVE LEVEL FOR NI AND REPUBLIC EVEN THOUGH REPUBLIC HAS TWICE THE POPULATION. COUNCIL MUST HAVE POWER TO EVOLVE, BUT PACE OF EVOLUTION MUST BE GOVERNED BY CONSENT OF A MAJORITY OF NI PEOPLE.

3. IAN PAISLEY HAS CRITICIZED SPEECH ON BASIS THAT REPUBLIC, "A FOREIGN COUNTRY," HAD MAINTAINED RIGHT TO HAVE A HAND IN SHAPING NI DESTINY, AND THAT EVIDENTLY HMG CONCEDES THIS RIGHT. IN COMMENT TO IRISH MEDIA, HOWEVER, UNIONIST LEADER FAULKNER WELCOMED SPEECH AS "VERY HELPFUL," THOUGH STILL NOT SUFFICIENT.

4. COMMENT: THOUGH NOT AN ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW POLICY, SECTION OF SPEECH QUOTED IN PARA ONE IS ESPECIALLY CONCISE AND HELPFUL. IN ANSWERING PUBLIC AND CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES, DEPT MAY FIND USE FOR GOI BELIEF THAT FEAR LIES AT THE ROOT OF NI PROBLEM, SO THAT SOLUTION MUST BE FOUND IN MEASURES TO REMOVE FEAR.
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